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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: HASKELL, Thomas, Rex, [NZ/NZ]; PO Box
2076, Raumati Beach, Wellington (NZ).

(74) Agents: WEST-WALKER, Gregory, J., et al.; A J Park,
6th Floor Huddart Parker Building, Post Office Square, PO
Box 949, 6015 Wellington (NZ).

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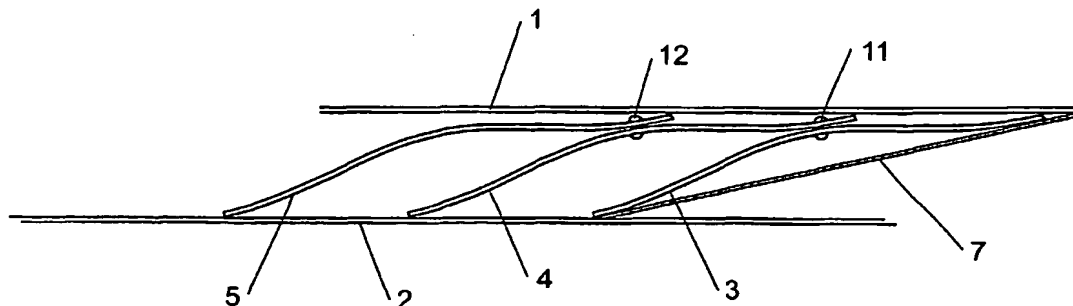
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ENERGY ABSORBING GARMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention comprises an energy absorbing and/or spreading garment for protection against an impact or a fall, the garment including an inner layer (2), an outer layer (1), a plurality of arcuate panels (3,4,5) housed between the inner layer (2) and the outer layer (1) of the garment, and wherein each panel (3,4,5) is arranged to overlap at least one adjacent panel in sliding relationship with the at least one adjacent panel. Impacts from falling off a horse or being kicked by a horse will cause the panels (3,4,5) to deform, spreading the energy of the impact. The panels (3,4,5) to deform, spreading the energy of the impact. The panels (3,4,5) also slide against each other further spreading the force of the impact.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ03/00150

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl. ⁷: A41D 13/015

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI and keywords: energy and absorb and garment and panel and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4004493 A (COSTANZA) 25 January 1977 Column 1 line 52 to column 2 line 41	1,4-6,8,9, 12,15-22
X	GB 2368775 A (TURNER) 15 May 2002 Page 8 lines 8 to 27	1,15-24
A	FR 2706318 A1 (PASCOLINI) 23 December 1994 Whole document	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929Authorized officer
D. Melhuish
DAVID MELHUISE
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2426

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5140995 A (UHL) 25 August 1992 Whole document	
A	US 5515541 A (SACKS et al.) 14 May 1996 Whole document	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ03/00150

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	4004493	NONE			
GB	2368775	NONE			
FR	2706318	NONE			
US	5140995	NONE			
US	5515541	EP	613550	GB	2261589 WO 9310419
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